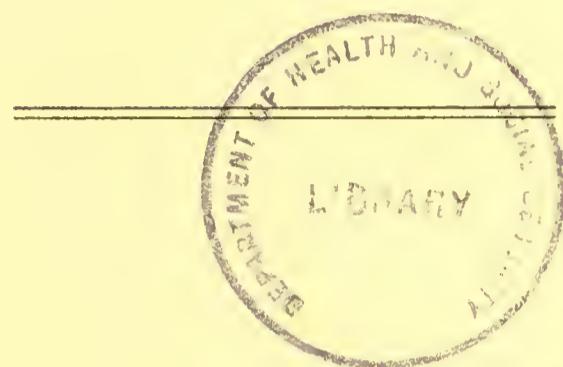


BARNSTAPLE RURAL DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1968



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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1968

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:- S.V. Lewis

Vice-Chairman:- C.W. Trigger

Miss E.M.S. Boyd
Mrs. C.B. Burgess
Mrs. N.M. Meeson
The Rev. B.M. Tinsley
J.E. Andrew
H.J. Bailey
C.J. Bartlett
G.H. Beard
R. Bowden
W.T.C. Buckingham
G.A.J. Cheesley
C. Chichester
C.H. Cowler
A.J. Dennis
G.R. Huxtable
H.R. Latham
A. Moon
W.W. Nott
C.A. Passmore
W. Pengelly
F.C. Richards
F.J. Ridd-Jones
M.A.J. Sexon
G.H. Staddon
G.H. Stanbury
W.H. Tanner
C.G. Yeo

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

John Kemp, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

F. Whittaker, M.A.P.H.I.

G.C. Dunford, M.A.P.H.I.

MEAT INSPECTORS

M.P. Davis

T.F.M. Ellicott

CLERK

Mrs. Y. Horntvedt

Tele: Barnstaple 5781

Public Health Department,
The Red House,
Castle Street,
Barnstaple.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit my report to you on the health and statistics of the district for the year 1968.

I wish to thank Mr. Lewis as Chairman, and the members of the Public Health Committee for their help and interest in the work of the Department and to thank the Chief Public Health Inspector and staff for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

E. Williams

Medical Officer of Health

August, 1969

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District in acres ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	129,346
Number of parishes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Estimated population ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,460
Population at 1961 census ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,069
Inhabited houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,136
Number of Council owned houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	736
Density of persons per house ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.8
Rateable value ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£935,088
Estimated product of penny rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£3,763

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Area comparability factors ..	...	...	...	...	Births	1.19
					Deaths	0.84
Live births ...	...	...	...	...	...	429
Live birth rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	...	...	...	15.1
Live birth rate per 1,000 population corrected ...	...	...	...	...	...	17.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...	...	...	...	...	...	5.3%
Stillbirths ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stillbirths rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ...	...	...	...	...	...	.2
Total live and stillbirths ..	...	...	...	...	...	430
Infant deaths (under one year) ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 total live births ...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .	...	...	...	...	...	12
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Neo-natal mortality rate (under four weeks per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	4.6
Early neo-natal mortality rate (under one week per 1,000 ... do. )	...	...	...	...	...	4.6
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths ...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Maternal mortality (including abortion)...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Maternal mortality per 1,000 live and stillbirths ...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Deaths ...	...	...	...	...	...	370
Death rate per 1,000 population ...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Death rate per 1,000 population corrected ...	...	...	...	...	...	10.9

POPULATION

During 1968 the population of the Rural District increased by 480 to 28,460.

Births exceeded deaths by 59; illegitimate births fell from 25 to 23.

Out of 429 live births during the year, there were 5 infant deaths, giving an infant mortality rate of 12 per 1,000 live births.

POPULATION TRENDS

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Population:</u>		<u>Live Births:</u>		<u>Deaths:</u>
1951 (census)...	23,150	...	324	...	314
1952	23,030	...	342	...	322
1953	23,360	...	318	...	257
1954	23,410	...	346	...	296
1955	23,642	...	334	...	316
1956	24,070	...	343	...	302
1957	24,010	...	369	...	300
1958	24,370	...	362	...	276
1959	24,370	...	356	...	294
1960	25,050	...	365	...	272
1961 (census)...	25,290	...	338	...	299
1962	25,580	...	353	...	336
1963	26,020	...	434	...	329
1964	26,670	...	428	...	325
1965	27,090	...	405	...	346
1966	27,560	...	426	...	390
1967	27,980	...	432	...	325
1968	28,460	...	429	...	370

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	221	185	406
Illegitimate	11	12	23
	<u>232</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>429</u>

<u>Stillbirths:</u>	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	0	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

DEATHS

During the year there were 370 deaths (187 males and 183 females) as compared with 325 in the previous year.

Summary of Causes of Death in 1968

Male Female

Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases .....	...	...	-	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	...	...	1	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	...	...	1	-
Malignant neoplasm - stomach .....	...	...	8	6
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus .....	...	...	11	1
Malignant neoplasm - breast .....	...	...	-	9
Malignant neoplasm - uterus .....	...	...	-	2
Leukaemia .....	...	...	5	2
Other malignant neoplasms, etc. ....	...	...	23	17
Anaemias .....	...	...	-	1
Other diseases of blood, etc. ....	...	...	1	1
Meningitis .....	...	...	1	-
Other diseases of nervous system, etc. ....	...	...	2	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease .....	...	...	1	2
Hypertensive disease .....	...	...	4	6
Ischaemic heart disease .....	...	...	58	54
Other forms of heart disease .....	...	...	6	12
Cerebrovascular disease .....	...	...	26	29
Other diseases of circulatory system .....	...	...	8	4
Influenza .....	...	...	-	2
Pneumonia .....	...	...	4	7
Bronchitis and emphysema .....	...	...	9	6
Peptic ulcer .....	...	...	1	-
Appendicitis .....	...	...	1	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia .....	...	...	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system .....	...	...	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis .....	...	...	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system .....	...	...	2	-
Congenital anomalies .....	...	...	-	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ....	...	...	-	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality .....	...	...	-	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions .....	...	...	2	6
Motor vehicle accidents .....	...	...	4	2
All other accidents .....	...	...	2	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries .....	...	...	2	2
All other external causes .....	...	...	1	-

187

183

Neo-Natal Deaths

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of four weeks:-

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	0	4	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Infant Mortality Rate

During the year 9 infants (1 male and 8 females) died under the age of one year; giving the infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births of 12.

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	1	8	9
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Deaths in Age Groups

<u>Age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 4 weeks	-	2	2
4 weeks to 1 year	1	2	3
1 to 4 years	2	-	2
5 to 14 years	1	1	2
15 to 24 years	1	-	1
25 to 34 years	1	1	2
35 to 44 years	3	3	6
45 to 54 years	12	6	18
55 to 64 years	29	18	47
65 to 74 years	60	36	96
Over 75	77	114	191

Cancer Deaths

There were eighty four deaths from cancer in 1968; eleven more than the previous year.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stomach	8	6	14
Lung and Bronchus	11	1	12
Breast	-	9	9
Uterus	-	2	2
Leukaemia	5	2	7
Other	23	17	40

Deaths from Lung Cancer

<u>Year</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952	5	1	6
1953	5	2	7
1954	5	1	6
1955	5	-	5
1956	7	-	7
1957	8	2	10
1958	9	2	11
1959	7	2	9
1960	6	2	8
1961	9	2	11
1962	10	-	10
1963	11	2	13
1964	12	-	12
1965	12	-	12
1966	10	5	15
1967	8	6	14
1968	11	1	12

Cancer Deaths since 1952

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Cancer Deaths</u>		<u>Total</u>
			<u>Females</u>		
1952	322	26	29		55
1953	257	18	27		45
1954	296	20	30		50
1955	316	21	26		47
1956	302	25	30		55
1957	300	31	26		57
1958	276	21	22		43
1959	294	24	28		52
1960	272	20	21		41
1961	299	24	27		51
1962	336	34	37		71
1963	329	34	28		62
1964	325	35	27		62
1965	346	35	23		58
1966	390	36	29		65
1967	325	38	35		73
1968	370	47	37		84

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of notifiable infectious diseases were reported during the year:-

Infective Jaundice	...	...	...	4
Scarlet Fever	..	...	...	8
Whooping Cough	.	...	...	13
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	5
Measles	..	...	...	277
Acute Encephalitis	...	...	...	1
Dysentery.	...	...	...	12

Five cases of tuberculosis (four of lung tuberculosis and one non-pulmonary) were notified in accordance with the Regulations, as follows:-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1 - 5	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	1	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	1	-	1
45 - 54	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	-	+	-	-
65+	2	-	-	-

Lung Tuberculosis - Distribution of Cases

Braunton .	...	...	...	...	1
Instow ...	...	...	...	...	1
Fremington	...	...	...	...	2
Tawstock .	...	...	...	...	1

Incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis since 1951

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Case rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 Population</u>
1951	23	0.99	7	0.30
1952	21	0.91	6	0.26
1953	24	1.03	3	0.12
1954	11	0.47	-	-
1955	4	0.17	-	-
1956	7	0.29	-	-
1957	5	0.20	1	0.04
1958	5	0.20	1	0.04
1959	4	0.16	1	0.04
1960	6	0.23	-	-
1961	5	0.20	1	0.04
1962	5	0.23	-	-
1963	2	0.075	-	-
1964	2	0.075	-	-
1965	5	0.185	1	0.04
1966	4	0.145	1	0.04
1967	4	0.145	-	-
1968	4	0.145	1	0.03

The following table shows the number of cases on the Rural District tuberculosis register on 1st January and 31st December, 1968.

1968	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1st January	51	36	87	10	18	28
31st December	53	38	91	10	19	29

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

TUBERCULOSIS

All cases of tuberculosis are now treated at Hawkmoor Hospital, Bovey Tracey.

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

Protective immunization and vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox and poliomyelitis are undertaken by the general practitioners and the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are four Infant Welfare Clinics organised by the Devon County Health Authority within the District held as follows:-

Fremington Parish Hall 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons
Braunton Parish Hall..... Thursday afternoons
Combe Martin Health Centre 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons
Woolacombe Methodist Hall 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There is an infectious diseases section at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford which serves Barnstaple as well as other local authorities in North Devon.

MATERNITY CASES

The North Devon District Hospital Maternity Unit at North Road, Barnstaple was opened during the year. It has fifty four beds (fortyeight general and six special care). As a result the maternity sections at the Ilfracombe, South Molton and Torrington Hospitals have been closed, as has the General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of thirteen beds at Highfield Maternity Home, Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

SMALLPOX

All the smallpox cases in the counties of Devon and Cornwall are sent to Liskeard Smallpox Hospital, or to Lee Mill Hospital.

The Plymouth Ambulance Service (Plymouth 64101) provide transport for smallpox cases.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 Section 47
and Amendment Act, 1951.

This section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes to a County Welfare Home.

No cases were dealt with under this Section during the year.

THE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

The mass radiography unit visits Barnstaple fortnightly on alternate Wednesdays, between the hours of 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. It is situate in the Cattle Market (Tuly Street entrance) and is available to the general public (with the exception of children under fifteen years of age and expectant mothers). It is also available for cases referred by General Practitioners in the area, thus releasing the X-ray Department at the North Devon Infirmary to cope with other important x-ray work.

JUNIOR TRAINING CENTRE, ABBEYFIELD, BARNSTAPLE

This centre provides training facilities for mentally-handicapped children between the ages of five and sixteen years. Hostel accommodation is provided for children living some distance from the centre.

ADULT TRAINING CENTRE, HAWLEY, BARNSTAPLE

A new Adult Training Centre for the North Devon area was opened in 1966 for the training of handicapped adults. This centre also has hostel accommodation.

HOSPITALS

The North Devon Infirmary, situate in Barnstaple, serves the area and provides modern medical and surgical treatment for the residents of the district. There are one hundred and twenty five beds.

Two wards, with a total of thirty three beds, at the Alexandra Hospital, Barnstaple are set aside as an annexe to the North Devon Infirmary and post-operative and recovery patients are transferred there as soon as possible.

There are one hundred beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 the local health authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) are responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and the Devon County Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and the Rural District and the headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple (Barnstaple 5321). The staff consists of four paid full-time members, twenty men volunteers and fourteen volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the hospital by the doctor concerned and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the ambulance is not necessary.

LABORATORIES

The Public Health Laboratory, of which Dr. B. Moore is the Director, is situated at Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter. It is installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all doctors.

Bacteriological examinations of water, milk and ice-cream are also carried out there.

There is a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple with a full-time pathologist and technical staff to meet the needs of the whole of North Devon.

The blood bank is at this local laboratory.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

There are nine district nurses in the area, all of whom act as midwives.

CARE OF THE AGED

Wherever possible, elderly persons who are living alone are given every assistance to enable them to remain as long as possible in their own homes. They are visited by Health Visitors and in the case of ill-health by the District Nurse.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

The V.D. Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annex as follows:-

Males: Mondays and Thursdays at 5.45 p.m.

Females: Mondays and Thursdays at 4.45 p.m.

The Chest Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annex as follows:-

Clinic and X-ray examinations - Tuesdays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

HOUSING

During the year one Closing Order and one Demolition Order were made by the Council and one formal Undertaking was accepted from an owner that a house would not be used for human habitation until such time as it had been made fit to the satisfaction of the Council.

Twenty three of the forty Council houses under construction at Wraffton were finished and occupied during the year.

The applicants on the Council's housing waiting list were substantially reduced through reorganisation of the basis of application and the implementation of a points system. At the end of 1968 the number of applicants totalled one hundred and seventy.

During the year the following grants were approved for the improvement of old properties.

	<u>Owner/Occupied</u>	<u>Tenanted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Standard	7	20	27
Discretionary	1	12	13

Public Health Department,
The Red House,
Castle Street,
BARNSTAPLE.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fourth Annual Report on the activities of the Public Health Department during 1968.

This was another year which provided its full share of mixtures of interest, problems and routine activities occasioned by the Department's widespread and varied responsibilities.

An important feature of the years events was the assumption of complete control over meat inspection by the Department's inspectors, which I feel was a major step forward regarding uniformity in standards of inspection, improved supervision of standards of hygiene and more useful deployment of staff. The Council should be aware, however, that the assistance given with meat inspection by Mr. D.W. Pettett and his colleagues has been considerable over the past few years.

A complimentary activity to the aforementioned staffing improvements was the continued construction of the new slaughterhouse premises at Rookabear which, after completion, in due course will probably mean that additional meat inspection staff may be required.

The responsibility for the refuse collection and disposal services demanded the normal significant amount of attention, but again I am pleased to report that it was possible to effect improvements and economies.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the co-operative attitude shown by members of the Council and the Public Health Committee and in particular the helpful and friendly assistance of Mr. Lewis, Dr. Williams and Mrs. Horntvedt.

The important public health matters of sewerage and sewage disposal are included in this report and I thank the Surveyor for the information provided.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN KEMP
Chief Public Health Inspector

WATER

PUBLIC SUPPLIES

The North Devon Water Board provides a supply of chlorinated mains water to all villages in the Rural District, with the exceptions of Challacombe and Saunton.

The mains water is distributed to almost all areas from the works at Bratton Fleming. The Brendon area is served by a mains supply from the Lynton water works.

The main reservoir at Wistlandpound has a capacity of 341,000,000 gallons and the Bratton Fleming water works distribute more than 2,000,000 gallons of water per day.

During 1968 water mains were extended in the districts of Arlington and High Bray and also to serve new housing development that was proceeding in various areas.

Mains water connections were provided for 322 domestic and 17 other premises, including farms, in the rural area.

The parishes most affected being Braunton (109 connections) Fremington (49 connections) Heanton Punchardon (38 connections) and Tawstock (21 connections).

PRIVATE SUPPLIES

There is only one major private water supply in the Rural District, which is at Saunton serving approximately thirty five properties. There are, however, still numerous hamlets, isolated dwellings and farms throughout the area which rely on their own supplies drawn from wells and springs.

SAMPLING

The North Devon Water Board arrange for the final water from the Bratton Fleming works to be submitted for bacteriological examination each week. In addition, mains water is sampled regularly throughout the district at consumers premises.

The following summary shows the results of all water samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year in respective parishes.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Public Supply</u> (Taken by N.D.W.B.)		<u>Private Supplies</u> (Taken by B.R.D.C.)	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Arlington	-	-	-	11
Atherington	1	-	-	-
Berrynarbor	9	-	-	-
Bishops Tawton	-	-	3	7
Bittadon	-	-	1	-
Bratton Fleming	147	1	1	8
Braunton	30	-	3	3
Brendon	32	-	1	-
Challacombe	-	-	1	2
Combe Martin	24	2	4	2
Countisbury	-	-	3	1
Fremington	5	-	-	1
Georgeham	23	-	1	3
Goodleigh	-	-	-	2
Heanton Punchardon	2	-	-	-
High Bray	1	-	1	1
Instow	24	-	1	1
Landkey	2	-	1	2
Loxhore	-	-	1	1
Martinhoe	-	-	1	2
Marwood	3	-	1	-
Mortehoe	33	-	-	-
Parracombe	8	-	1	-
Pilton West	1	-	-	-
Shirwell	8	-	2	3
Stoke Rivers	-	-	1	1
Swimbridge	-	-	1	5
Tawstock	2	-	-	1
Trentishoe	-	-	4	1
West Down	9	-	-	-
Westleigh	1	-	-	-
	365	3	33	58

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

SEWERAGE

The Council owns and operates sewerage systems in the following areas.

Braunton

The flow into the Vellator sewage works increases steadily as a result of new development and now exceeds 200,000 gallons per day during dry weather rising to over 3,000,000 gallons per day during heavy rain. The works are extremely vulnerable to heavy shock loads and during the floods over Christmas 1968 the works were almost flooded owing to the inability of the pumps to cope with the inflow.

Combe Martin

The village drains to a sea outfall through which untreated sewage is discharged to the sea below low tide level. The system works entirely by gravity, except for a few properties situate at Newberry Beach, where an ejector lifts the sewage to the gravity sewers. The outfall functions very efficiently and no complaints of nuisance have been received.

The system has no equipment for measuring flows, and the volumes discharged are consequently unknown.

Georgeham and Croyde

These villages drain by gravity sewers to a pumping station at Croyde Bay where the sewage is passed through macerating pumps and thence into the sea via an outfall off Baggy Point. During the summer consistent overloading of the system caused regular discharge of sewage on to the beach and in July it was necessary to construct a screen chamber in order to minimise the nuisance. Plans were put in hand immediately to instal large pumps and a new 12" rising main, construction being scheduled to commence early in 1969.

Mortehoe and Woolacombe.

Woolacombe has main drainage facilities in which the sewage is passed via a partial treatment works to a sea outfall. Further work has been carried out to strengthen this outfall.

At North Morte the sewage is discharged into a sea outfall at Rockham Beach after treatment in a septic tank.

The village of Mortehoe is sewered and sewage is pumped from the pumping station at Castle Rock to the Woolacombe sewage works for treatment. The whole system is heavily overloaded and investigations have begun into making the necessary improvements.

Parracombe

The village has a main drainage system constructed in 1960. The works give full biological treatment to the sewage and consistently good analyses of the effluent are obtained. The majority of properties are now connected to the sewerage system.

South Bank Sewerage Scheme

This system serves the built-up areas of Hele Manor, Oakland Park, Bickington, Fremington, Yelland and Instow and also that part of the Borough of Barnstaple which lies to the west of the River Taw. The bulk of the sewage is pumped to the treatment works at Yelland via pumping stations situate at Anchorwood, Oakland Park, Fremington, Instow A (on the Instow Front) and Instow B (adjoining the Army depot).

The pumps at Fremington deliver 75,000 gallons per hour. During the dry weather the pumps operate for approximately three hours a day, but in storm weather up to twelve or fifteen hours are recorded.

Large volumes of surface water enter the sewers by the Magdala branch serving Bickington village. The whole of the main road through the village drains to the foul sewers and a stormwater overflow at Magdala reduces the volume to be dealt with by the pumps. The Ministry of Transport has continued width improvement to the A 39 road through Bickington and eventually all the road water will be removed from the foul sewers.

Saunton

This is a very old sewerage system which continues to function without apparent nuisance. The sewage gravitates to a large septic tank and the effluent from this tank is distributed by a series of trenches in the sand dunes.

Westleigh

The village is sewered on the combined system which results in foul sewage and surface water being discharged directly into the River Torridge via a sewer outfall. At present no treatment is provided, but the design of a treatment works was commenced during the year.

SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

Atherington

These works are consistent in producing effluent of a very high quality, well within the standards of the Royal Commission.

Berrynarbor

A small sewage treatment works serves the properties at the southern end of the village. These works are not very efficient and would be abandoned in the event of a new sewerage scheme being provided for Berrynarbor.

Bratton Fleming

Large volumes of surface and infiltration water enter this system and complicate the operation of the plant. Bratton Fleming is a key settlement and in order to overcome the present difficulties and to allow for future development, it will be necessary within the next few years to reconstruct the treatment works.

Braunton

The treatment works were constructed in 1965 to a design capacity of 280,000 gallons per day dry weather flow. The average dry weather flow received at the works is now over 200,000 gallons per day; the settled sewage being discharged into the Pill.

Goodleigh

The village system includes a treatment works which incorporates a septic tank. This plant gives considerable trouble as a result of toxic discharge into the system. Intensive investigations have been carried out but have failed to indicate the nature, or source of the trouble.

Knowle

The village of Knowle drains to a small pre-war sewage works to be abandoned when Knowle is connected into the Braunton system.

West Down

A small treatment works serves the village. The effluent quality varies, but generally it is within the standard required by the River Authority.

Woolacombe

The sewage from Woolacombe and part of Mortehoe is treated at an underground sewage works on the sea front at Woolacombe. The sewage is settled in an upward flow sedimentation tank and the settled liquor is held in a storage tank to be released at the appropriate state of the tide. The sludge is pumped to a consolidation tank from whence it is removed by the Council's cesspool emptier.

Yelland

The Yelland works provide for primary settlement only, the settled sewage being discharged into the estuary near the East Yelland Power Station.

The works were designed to treat a dry weather flow of 369,000 gallons and at present run below the design loading by approximately 40,000 gallons per day. During severe storms flows in excess of 3,000,000 gallons have been recorded. The works were completely flooded during the exceptionally heavy rainfalls over Christmas 1968.

NEW SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Bishops Tawton, Landkey and Swimbridge.

Work on the scheme to provide sewerage facilities for these villages continued throughout the year and completion is likely to be in mid 1969.

Milltown and Muddiford

A scheme for the seweraging of this area has been designed, but to-date the Ministry has withheld loan consent because of the absence of proved public health nuisances.

Future Main Drainage Proposals.

During the year the Surveyor submitted a comprehensive report to the Council on the main drainage requirements throughout the district and as a result a long term programme of capital works has been prepared. When this programme has been carried out the whole of the built-up areas of the Rural District requiring main drainage should have this facility. Additional technical staff have been appointed for this purpose.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Council owns and maintains the following:-

Braunton (Parish Hall)

Damage to these conveniences is still sustained from time to time, generally as a result of vandalism.

Braunton (Car Park)

These conveniences, which were completed during the year, were constructed in conjunction with the new car park.

Combe Martin (Seaside, Skirhead, Hollands Park and Kiln Car Park)

Being in a holiday area, these conveniences were in continual use during the summer season.

Croyde (Village)

These conveniences were constructed immediately after the war and are used extensively during the holiday season.

Croyde (Downend)

New conveniences were constructed and completed in time for the 1968 holiday season.

Georgeham

This small block of conveniences, which were adequate at the time of their construction a few years ago, are no longer large enough for the heavy demands being made upon them. Alternative sites are still being investigated.

Instow

These are used extensively during the season as is the case with all public conveniences on the coast.

Woolacombe (Red Barn, Beach and Combesgate)

The Beach conveniences were reconstructed and enlarged in 1967.

Woolacombe (Marine Drive)

Countisbury (County Gate)

The Elsan system of public conveniences, installed in 1967, give satisfactory service and are used a great deal by holidaymakers.

Bratton Fleming and Mortehoe Village

The Council has an agreement with the Village Hall Committees whereby the conveniences are open to the public in return for an annual contribution towards the running costs.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

COLLECTION

Weekly collections of household refuse were maintained from the majority of premises throughout the district, the only exceptions being in a limited number of small villages and hamlets which received a fortnightly service.

Summer Services

During the four months from the end of May until the end of September, two collections each week were made in the holiday areas of Instow, Croyde, Georgeham, Woolacombe, Mortehoe, Berrynarbor and Combe Martin for the benefit of hotels, guest-houses, holiday caravan sites and certain business premises. Apart from the improved service for those places catering for visitors, the arrangement obviously eased the problems of collection.

The practice of providing caravan sites with internal collections during the summer season when they have been requested was continued. Charges were made for these special services.

Several holiday establishments requested additional collections and these were also undertaken with a charge being made for each visit.

Service Establishments

Special chargeable collections were carried out at the Army Camps at Fremington and Instow and there was the regular collection of refuse from the Royal Air Force Station at Chivenor which is the subject of a yearly contract.

At Chivenor R.A.F. Station, collections were made frequently from the messes, twice weekly from the lines, certain offices and stores, clubs, shops, sick quarters and workshops and weekly from the remainder of the stores, offices, sections, hangars, boiler houses and married quarters.

Improvements

As a result of surveys of all the collection rounds operated on Thursdays in the areas of Braunton, Saunton, Knowle, Wraffton, Heanton Punchardon and Ashford, alterations were made

in January to the routes of the vehicles concerned. Overlapping of routes was thereby eliminated, considerable reductions in mileage effected and the opportunity was also taken to redistribute the work load more evenly.

Further surveys of other collection routes and areas were continued when time permitted. These detailed surveys are considered to be essential before any worthwhile reorganisation of rounds can be undertaken.

Unwanted Articles

On numerous occasions during the year assistance was given to ratepayers with awkward, unusual or bulky items, or accumulations of refuse which they wished to discard.

Additional items of reasonable size were usually collected with the normal refuse without question. Instructions were issued for the collection of such articles as bicycles, mattresses and furniture after residents had contacted the Department.

Considerable amounts of refuse, or bulky items such as car bodies, invariably necessitated a special visit by a lorry and crew and in certain instances a charge was made.

A local firm of scrap merchants accepted any abandoned vehicles collected by the Department and several cars and vans were disposed of in this way during the year.

Particulars of the availability of these services for the disposal of unwanted articles were incorporated with notices in the local press regarding public holiday collection arrangements and resulted in many requests for special collections. This publicity was given during the winter and spring months when vehicles and men were more easily available for this additional work.

LITTER

During the summer months the smallest collection vehicle was used mainly for the collection of litter from the many receptacles that have been provided throughout the area. Where necessary containers were emptied two or three times each week.

Contributions towards the costs involved were received in respect of the collection of litter from sites within the Exmoor National Park and at lay-bys on various main roads within the district.

Permanent litter bins in villages and lay-bys are mainly of the large covered concrete type with wooden fronts, or, particularly in the shopping areas of Braunton and Woolacombe and at various bus stops, a smaller concrete type.

Metal drum containers are used in remote areas of the district frequented by summer visitors. When necessary they were overhauled and repainted at the depot during the winter. These utilitarian receptacles are cheap, convenient and almost indestructible.

DISPOSAL

The use of sites at Claypit Coverts, Fremington and Berry Down, Berrynarbor for the tipping of refuse continued throughout the year.

Refuse from Brendon and Countisbury and other areas in the north eastern part of the district was deposited at the Lyn Down tip of the Lynton Urban District Council and an appropriate payment for this use was made to that Authority.

Early in the year at Fremington the area on which tipping had been completed was satisfactorily covered with soil, levelled and fenced as required by the owners before the Council could be released from its Agreement.

Tipping proceeded on part of the further area of land which had been leased adjoining the completed tip. This was hampered during early summer by a fire when, unfortunately, complete control was not possible immediately due to a lack of water in the nearby stream and the prolonged absence of the Bristol tractor from the site for repairs.

Considerable amounts of stone, rubble and soil from roadworks were deposited at the tip during the year and were most useful for the improvement of the approach road and as covering material.

Berry Down tip was affected with fire for a period during March. The position and depth of the tip presented considerable difficulties in its control. The Council's

cesspool emptier was not available as a water carrier due to a breakdown and the fire was eventually extinguished by using water from a hydrant some 500 yards away. The hiring and borrowing of sufficient hoses presented a problem, and those that were made available from several sources were found not to be in particularly good condition.

In conjunction with the use of water, the Bristol tractor was used to excavate a large portion of the affected area which completely upset the filling progress.

In due course it was possible to restore the appearance of the site and, in addition, level the upper area of completed tip, improve the access, and erect additional chain-link fencing to minimise the wind dispersal of paper and similar lightweight materials and prevent access by animals. Subsequently, under normal conditions, all refuse was deposited out of view from the adjoining roadway. In November sufficient soil was delivered from road improvement works in the area to effectively cover the upper area of the tip.

Throughout the year further sites within a radius of four to five miles from Braunton were examined in a continuing effort to find a suitable location for a refuse tip for that area of the District.

In February a Sub-Committee inspected a large area of land at Vellator adjoining Braunton Pill in the vicinity of Chivenor Airfield which was available for purchase. It was considered that there were several features which rendered the site unsuitable, including the question of the maintenance of a long embankment and drainage and access difficulties.

The examination of a suggested alternative site between the Vellator sewage works and Wrafton railway station revealed likely problems with drainage.

It was significant also that these areas were within half a mile of the air field and on the boundary from which prevailing winds arise and therefore, in addition, objections were envisaged from Chivenor R.A.F. Station.

Further consideration was given to the use of land in the proximity of Braunton Burrows, but from subsequent press and television comments, it was apparent that various bodies would be opposed to this proposal.

In April the Public Health Committee decided that consideration should be given to the whole question of refuse disposal in the Rural District. A report outlining the present arrangements with details of sites, methods, standards of control, advantages and disadvantages and alternative methods of disposal, such as incineration and pulverisation, was prepared in June but it was not until November that the Committee were able to give the matter their complete attention.

It was suggested that the present methods of tipping refuse should be continued, particularly as this was the cheapest form of disposal; that a Ministry Working Party was currently considering the question of refuse disposal and as Local Government reorganisation was reasonably imminent. The Council accepted the report.

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

New Vehicles

Early in the year consideration was given to the suggestion that a new small refuse collection vehicle was needed. To negotiate narrow lanes and steep gradients throughout the district a sturdy manoeuvrable machine of compact size, but with a capacity as great as possible was required.

Being aware of the fact that no manufacturer of this specialised equipment catered for the limited demand for a small machine, I had already given the matter some thought and had come to the conclusion that the most suitable chassis to cope with the task was the Forward Control Land-Rover, although it was not entirely satisfactory in every respect.

Eventually, after careful consideration of alternative makes of chassis, this recommendation was accepted and an order was placed with a local garage for the complete vehicle.

The body was made by the Tiverton Body Company after discussions and agreement on the general requirements. It was therefore convenient and advantageous to visit the works during its construction and agree modifications and final details before completion.

As this was a prototype vehicle, the Rover Company were particularly interested in this new use for their multipurpose Land-Rover chassis and there was considerable general interest from all involved with the project. Personally, I felt that the whole exercise from preliminary design to final operation, was extremely interesting and worthwhile.

The vehicle commenced work in December and was subsequently featured in television news programmes.

Refuse Collection Fleet

Details follow of the various vehicles in use during the year, all of which are powered with diesel engines. The last two columns show the actual mileage travelled by each vehicle in 1968, together with the average fuel consumption expressed in miles per gallon.

	<u>Make and Type</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>M.P.G.</u>
*	1963 Shelvoke & Drewry Pakamatic	50 cu yd.	7,966	6
*	1967 Shelvoke & Drewry Pakamatic	35 cu yd.	9,850E	7
+	1965 Bedford/Eagle Crushload	35 cu yd.	10,289	8
x	1961 Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft Tipper	14 cu yd.	9,200E	9
x	1960 Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft Tipper	12 cu yd.	9,616	10
R	1958 Bedford/Eagle Side Loader	10 cu yd.	6,566	12
D	1968 Land-Rover/Tiverton Rear Loader ...	7 cu yd.	1,287(i)	15
	1965 Ford/Homalloy Rear Loader	5 cu yd.	17,550E	23
xx	1962 Ford/Eagle Side Loader.....	3 cu yd.	8,400E(ii)	29

* Hydraulic ram for compression
+ Hydraulic crushing and compression rams
x Hydraulic compression plate

R Reserve vehicle

D New December, 1968

XX Sold November, 1968

E Estimated mileage

(i) One months use

(ii) Ten months use

It is interesting to note that the total mileage of all these vehicles was nearly 7,000 miles fewer than the figure for 1967, which in turn was less than the previous year by 7,000.

This substantial reduction in mileage again proves the value of surveys of collection routes and subsequent reorganisation which, in addition to savings in time and mileage, allows for the future extensions of services necessitated by the continual increases in the number of premises in the Rural District.

Existing Vehicles

With the arrival of the new Land-Rover lorry, it was possible to dispose of a 1962 Ford 15 cwt side loading machine and relegate a 1965 Ford 15 cwt rear loader to the easier task of litter collection.

The 1960 Fore and Aft Tipper was completely repainted by its driver at the beginning of the year which considerably improved its appearance.

The 1961 Fore and Aft Tipper suffered an engine breakdown and period out of service during the summer season due to a broken crankshaft and damaged bearings.

The 1963 Pakamatic experienced its first engine overhaul during the year and fortunately was off the road for only three days.

The 1965 Crushload showed that unfortunately it does not have a similar high standard of reliability and had to be repaired on at least five occasions during the year, amounting to more than eight weeks out of use. In May the deterioration of the working surfaces and moving parts of the hopper recurred, necessitating the renewal of wearing plates and rollers. Delays in obtaining the replacement parts meant that the work took over a week to complete. In November similar trouble occurred with extensive repairs lasting at least a fortnight. The complicated crushing and compressing mechanism has proved to be troublesome and in need of frequent attention and at least annual repair. Over £700 was spent on repairs to this vehicle in 1968.

The 1965 Ford vehicle experienced further trouble with fractures to the chassis due to continual and unavoidable overloading.

The extensions to the Wraffton Depot were completed early in the year providing sufficient garage accommodation for all vehicles.

Tip Control Equipment

Two machines are used for levelling and covering refuse at the two tips.

1966 Bristol Taurus tractor shovel
1962 Fordson Major four wheel drive tractor

The Bristol Taurus is a tracked machine which is normally in use at the main tip at Fremington. It is powerful and compact and most suitable for tip control work, being capable of soil and refuse excavation, as well as tip compaction.

When it is required for excavation and heavy work at Berry Down, it is transported on a six wheeled low loading trailer towed by the reserve vehicle. The machine was given a general overhaul in 1968 which mainly entailed renewals and repairs to the tracks and associated parts regarded as normal routine replacements.

The Fordson tractor (equipped with a bucket) is not so powerful, or robust, but has the advantage of being able to travel under its own power to other tips, as well as being a reserve unit. It has the disadvantage of being prone to punctures, a major hazard of refuse tips.

Future Replacements

In December it was requested that consideration be given to the purchase of a new refuse collection vehicle within the next financial year.

PERSONNEL

The labour force of the Public Health Department totals twenty one and comprises a foreman, six driver/loaders, thirteen collectors and a tractor operator.

The Council is fortunate to have these reliable workers who have kept this essential service functioning throughout the year, particularly during the summer season when their task is considerably increased.

Staff changes were again few, two loaders resigned. A number of the men have worked for the Council for several years.

Having regard to the large number of refuse collection visits made during the year to all types of premises, comparatively few complaints were received and this is regarded as a tribute to the men who are carrying out this heavy work in all kinds of weather.

HOUSING

The inspections of dwellings likely to be unfit for human habitation in accordance with the standards recommended by the Housing Act, 1957, were maintained and reports were regularly submitted at meetings of the Public Health Committee on houses that were not considered to be capable of being made fit at reasonable cost. Formal action normally resulted in the making of Closing Orders, Demolition Orders, or the submission of Undertakings from owners.

The majority of the properties were considered to be worthy of retention and modernisation and owners were encouraged to consider seriously such action wherever appropriate. Proposals for repair and improvement were forthcoming in a number of instances.

It is important to realise that the rate of progress in dealing with unfit houses must be related to the availability of suitable alternative accommodation for those persons who will be displaced.

It should be recorded that the number of unfit houses in this District must be appreciably fewer than other parts of the country when the ever present demand for older properties for holiday and retirement purposes is considered.

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses Elsewhere

Houses Demolished

Under Sections 16 or 17 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957	1
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Unfit Houses Closed

Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957 and Section 26 of the Housing Act, 1961	3
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Unfit Houses Made Fit

After formal notice under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	2
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CARAVAN SITES

The majority of the caravan sites within the district have been provided for holiday purposes and during the summer season these are regularly inspected to check that conditions appertaining to the site licences are being observed.

As there are almost thirty licensed sites located between Yelland and Parracombe and concentrated in the holiday areas of Croyde, Woolacombe, Mortehoe, Berrynarbor and Combe Martin, these inspections entail a considerable proportion of the time of the public health inspectors during the summer.

In addition, details are recorded of the number of caravans situated on sites during the particular months of June, July and August. This information is obtained for the County Planning Officer for use in connection with his annual survey of caravanning and the holiday trends and development in Devon.

Licensed Sites

Details are given of the main sites licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. The majority are holiday sites, where caravans are permitted to be used for human habitation only during the period from March to October in each year, and touring caravans are not allowed to remain on the sites for periods longer than three weeks. There are, of course, no such restrictions for residential sites.

Other sites which have been granted licences, mostly for one caravan only, and none for more than three, are as listed hereunder.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Use</u>
Berrynarbor	1	Holiday
Combe Martin	1	Holiday
Fremington	1	Residential and touring
Goodleigh	1	Residential
Kentisbury	1	Holiday
Landkey	1	Residential
Martinhoe	1	Holiday
Mortehoe	1	Holiday
Shirwell	1	Residential

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>CARAVAN SITES</u>	<u>CARAVANS</u>	
		Total	Resid
<u>ASHFORD</u>	Midland Caravan Park	63	-
<u>BERRYNARBOR</u>	Berrynarbor Trailer Park	65(*15)	6
	Indicknowle Farm	5	-
	The Napps	*20	-
	Sandaway Caravan Park	90	-
	Watermouth Caves	69	-
<u>BRAUNTON</u>	Dune View Caravan Park	56	56
	Lobb Field	*50	-
	Score Farm	22	22
<u>COMBE MARTIN</u>	Glenavon Holiday Park	80	-
<u>FREMINGTON</u>	Bickington Caravan Site	35	35
	Lagoon View, Yelland	200	5
<u>GEORGEHAM</u>	Barn Lawn	2	-
	Burrows Mead Caravan Park, Croyde	150	-
	Ora Stone Caravan Park, Croyde	31	6
	Lyncroft Farm, North Buckland	4	-
	Putsborough Sands	20	-
	Ruda Caravan Park, Croyde	280	1
	Seabirds Park, Croyde	6	-
<u>GOODLEIGH</u>	Riversmead, Snapper	*20	-
<u>HEANTON</u>	Chivenor Cross	*25	-
<u>PUNCHARDON</u>			
<u>KENTISBURY</u>	Kentisbury Grange	61	-
<u>LANDKEY</u>	Mount View	24	24
<u>MORTEHOE</u>	Cleavewood Caravan Park	80	-
	North Morte Farm	73	-
	Pine Cones Caravan Park	50	-
	Twitchen House	317(*42)	-
	Woolacombe Sands Caravan Park	70	-
	Woolacombe Bay Caravan Park	245	-
<u>PARRACOMBE</u>	Lorna Doone Farm	*20	-

* Touring Caravans only

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MEAT PRODUCTION

Slaughterhouses

Four slaughterhouses continued to be licensed for the year 1968.

The total throughput for the year was noticeably lower than that of 1967 and this must be attributed to a certain extent to the after effects of the numerous outbreaks of foot and mouth disease throughout the country and the consequent large scale slaughter of livestock.

The Fremington slaughterhouse received constant attention from the Department's Inspectors in matters of hygiene.

The sub-standard premises used for slaughtering at Roundswell continued in use for the whole year, although its closure had been anticipated with the completion of the slaughterhouse under construction at Rookabear.

The proprietors had given a great deal of careful consideration to the internal arrangement and layout and fittings and equipment for the new buildings and although it was disappointing to find the old slaughterhouse still in use at the close of the year, it was felt that the delays would result in a replacement of the highest standard.

The advanced state of the premises indicated that they would be ready for operation early in 1969.

Of the two smaller slaughterhouses used in conjunction with butchery businesses only the one at Braunton continued in use, no slaughtering taking place at Swimbridge.

Meat Inspection

The all important duty of the inspection of all meat and offals from animals killed at the three slaughterhouses was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

With the two major slaughterhouses catering for markets and traders in the London area, they operated on Saturdays and Sundays from time to time which required the attendance of an inspector on those days. Meat inspection was usually carried out within normal hours during the rest of the week.

In December, 1967 it had been agreed that from 1st May, 1968 all meat inspection would be undertaken by local authority staff. Therefore, the Meat Inspector who had been employed on a temporary basis, due to the prolonged serious illness of the Council's sole Meat Inspector, was appointed to the permanent staff.

The year 1968 commenced with the local firm of veterinary surgeons undertaking all meat inspection duties at the Roundswell Slaughterhouse, except for one week a month when the Meat Inspector officiated, thereby enabling a limited form of control to be retained over standards of hygiene.

The Meat Inspector who had been seriously ill from January to August, 1967, suffered a further setback in his recovery and was away from work for a period of ten weeks from February until April.

April was the last month during which veterinary surgeons assisted with meat inspection. The same firm had been regularly providing a valuable service to the Council since the beginning of 1965.

From May onwards the two Meat Inspectors dealt with all weekday meat inspections. Most of the time being spent with one at each of the two major slaughterhouses where they undertook alternate periods of duty of two weeks.

The two Public Health Inspectors regularly assisted with weekend meat inspection throughout the year and a retired Public Health Inspector was employed on a casual basis to carry out inspections during the absence of the Meat Inspectors for holiday periods, sickness or other emergencies.

Having regard to circumstances and problems encountered with unlimited hours of inspection, together with the likelihood of an increased throughput at the new Rookabear Slaughterhouse, it was suggested in October that the Council should give further serious consideration to exercising their power to control times of slaughter.

The following hours of slaughter were suggested to the slaughterhouse proprietors as a basis for discussion.

Mondays to Fridays	7.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Saturdays	7.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon
Sundays	No slaughtering.

Information was obtained regarding throughputs and days and hours of slaughter at various slaughterhouses in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset which supply the London area. A study of the details confirmed that the suggested times were realistic.

In December, a Sub-Committee appointed to deal with the matter accepted that, in the interests of securing full and adequate meat inspection at reasonable cost, slaughtering should be restricted to five and a half days a week on the basis of the proposed hours. These views were forwarded to the proprietors of the two major slaughterhouses for their observations as the year ended.

Animals Killed and Inspected

The number of animals killed at the four slaughterhouses during the past five years are shown as follows.

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Beasts	2015	2418	1902	1446	1341
Calves	1376	1777	3118	3095	2407
Pigs	10190	13921	6988	4711	5760
Sheep	86605	119321	132515	131174	119465
Total Throughput	100186	137437	144523	140426	128973

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	<u>Cattle excl. cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sheep</u>
Animals killed and inspected:	1103	238	2407	5760	119465
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	29	32	9	350
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	202	92	33	441	7056
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	18.59	50.84	2.70	7.81	6.20
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	79	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	1.37	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections of all types of premises associated with food trades were carried out, as frequently as possible, during the year. Particular attention was given to catering establishments in the holiday areas of the district.

It was disconcerting to find a number of businesses lacking essential facilities, particularly wash hand basins, sinks and hot water supplies.

The following list details the types of food premises within the district and is classified in accordance with the principal business of the various traders:-

Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	8
Butchers	...	...	...	...	17
Cafes and Canteens	...	...	...	...	50
Confectioners & Ice Cream Retailers				...	33
Fishmongers and Fish Friers	..	...	...	...	7
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	10
Grocers	...	...	...	...	98
Hotels	...	...	...	...	34
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	49
<u>Total</u>					<u>306</u>

MILK AND DAIRIES

Within the district there are more than eighty farms or dairies which retail raw milk. The majority of these are farms which bottle a proportion of their output, normally for local consumption. Frequently this is for the convenience of the inhabitants of small hamlets, who otherwise might have difficulty in obtaining bottled milk. In some instances the amount bottled may only be one or two gallons, or as few as half a dozen households supplied.

The periodical testing of the various supplies of milk, as received by the consumer, is the responsibility of the Devon County Council, but with such a large number of retailers in this district alone, the task of the County Public Health Inspector in arranging for them all to be checked at frequent intervals is formidable.

Occasionally it is possible for untreated milk to contain the organisms of brucellosis which, when transferred from the cow to the consumer in this manner, may give rise to the condition known as undulant fever which since the eradication of tuberculosis has become the most serious health risk in raw milk.

To assist the County Public Health Inspector, and more particularly to obtain first hand information on local milk supplies, inspectors from the Department continued to take regular samples of raw milk from the various retailers and submit them to laboratory tests for brucella and keeping quality.

Details of the results of the tests applied to the random samples of untreated milk obtained during 1968 follow:-

Samples for brucella ring test ...	...	...	106
Samples containing brucella organisms ..	...	...	4
Samples also for methylene blue test ...	...	106	..
Samples which failed the methylene blue test : ..	...	33	

Where samples failed the test for keeping quality, checks were made on bottle cleaning and filling routines and in a few instances where repeat samples showed no improvement, the information was passed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for further investigation.

The four positive results from four different herds showed the value of the routine sampling of untreated milk.

In the first instance the investigation comprised further samples from the thirteen individual cows in milk which produced one positive result, so enabling the animal at fault to be identified. The farmer then contacted the veterinary surgeon for advice regarding its disposal.

The second result was obtained from a shop selling milk, thereby involving a second party. Further investigation at the farm by a veterinary surgeon included blood samples from the thirty four cows in the herd which produced positive results in several instances. The cows in question were removed from the herd and it is understood, were sent to a market in Dorset for disposal!

The follow up procedure in the third case involved thirty three individual samples from milking cows with four positive results. The farmer's veterinary surgeon proceeded with a programme of blood sampling and the matter reached a satisfactory conclusion with the establishment of a brucellosis free Accredited Herd.

The fourth positive sample resulted in the farmers veterinary surgeon arranging and carrying out the necessary sampling programme of elimination.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme is one of the first stages in the eradication of brucellosis, but unfortunately it is a voluntary scheme, although it has obvious advantages. Without any additional forms of regulation it can be seen by the example mentioned that even when brucella organisms are detected in a cow's milk, the animal does not have to be slaughtered and can be disposed of by offering it for sale in an open market and thereby probably spreading the infection to another farm.

The farmers concerned co-operated by agreeing readily to the heat treatment of their milk until the source of infection had been determined and eliminated.

ICE CREAM

Twenty five samples of soft and loose ice cream from machines and bulk containers at various retailers' premises in the holiday areas of Croyde, Georgeham, Woolacombe, Mortehoe and Combe Martin were obtained during the summer season for bacteriological examination and submitted to the methylene blue reduction test with the following results:-

Producer	Provisional Grade				Total
	1	2	3	4	
A	6	3	1	2	12
B	7	1	3	-	11
C	-	1	0	1	2
Totals	13	5	4	3	25

The majority of samples from any one producer should fall into Grade 1 or 2.

Where unsatisfactory results were obtained, advice was given on the cleansing and sterilisation of serving equipment, and repeat samples proved satisfactory.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

The initial detailed inspections of premises necessary at all offices and shops registered with the Council in accordance with the provisions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 were completed by the end of 1968.

This had been a formidable additional duty entailing a considerable amount of time with detailed requirements which had been restricted to the spring and winter months, as it was felt that the visits would have been an unreasonable interruption of business activities during the holiday season.

The more important matters which require attention where staff are employed are cleanliness, overcrowding, temperatures, ventilation, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, clothing accommodation, sitting facilities, eating facilities, first-aid equipment and the condition of floors, passages and stairs.

Registrations and General Inspections

<u>Class of Premises</u>	Premises newly registered	Total registered premises	General Inspections
Offices	5	26	14
Retail shops	12	111	46
Wholesale shops/warehouses	-	2	-
Catering establishments	3	26	11
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	20	165	71

FACTORIES

There are sixty five premises within the district registered as factories.

Notifications have been received of thirteen persons living within the district who undertake work in their homes in connection with the making of wearing apparel.

RODENT CONTROL

The Rodent Operative undertakes the treatment of infestations of rats and mice at residential and local authority premises throughout the district. Advice on treatment was given to the occupiers of business and agricultural premises who were referred, where necessary, to private firms carrying out rodent control work in the area.

All the sewage disposal works and refuse tips were visited regularly and treatments carried out whenever necessary. The laying of test baits in sewers at Swimbridge and Braunton were undertaken in April and again in October. The results showed that there was slight activity in each of the systems, but poison baiting and the subsequent follow-up visits dealt with the infestations.

In addition, the district received general surveys with particular attention being paid to known sources of infestation and previously infested properties.

Details of properties inspected in connection with infestations are as follows:-

Properties inspected:	Type of Property		
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural	Total
(a) After notification	188	8	196
(b) On survey	250	10	260
Properties found to be infested by:			:
(a) Rats	83	7	90
(b) Mice	15	3	18

WASTE FOOD PLANTS

The duties of licensing and supervising plants and equipment used for the boiling of waste foods for animal feeding are carried out under delegated powers from the Devon County Council.

At the end of the year there were nine premises in use, all of which were inspected during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Three premises within the district, in the parishes of Bratton Fleming, Bishops Tawton and Heanton Punchardon, are licensed and required to be inspected to ensure that they are kept in a suitable condition for boarding animals.

All were inspected during the year and conditions were regarded as satisfactory.

PETROLEUM

Eighty three licences were granted to keep petroleum spirit at various premises throughout the district.

The quantities of petroleum stored ranged from 100 gallons to 1,750,000 gallons. The licences issued permitted the storage of a total of 2,003,450 gallons.

During the year particular attention was given to the inspection of petrol filling stations to ascertain that premises were constructed and equipped in accordance with the licensing conditions.

In August the Home Office issued a revised Model Code of Principles of Construction and Licensing Conditions for the storage of petroleum and at the close of 1968 many proprietors had been requested to comply with requirements regarding fire-fighting appliances, notices and equipment.

EXPLOSIVES

Thirty one licences to keep gunpowder, or mixed explosives, were issued in respect of various premises within the district. These were mainly for the storage of fireworks.

PLEASURE BOATS

The licensing of pleasure boat proprietors and boatmen and the inspection of boats plying for hire at Combe Martin, Watermouth Harbour and Instow was carried out in connection with nineteen vessels.

Inspections were made regularly during the season to ensure that the conditions of licences were being observed, particularly with regard to the carrying of passengers to ascertain that the permitted number was not exceeded.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

The following is a summary of the main inspections and visits made by the staff of the Public Health Department during 1968.

Visits vary in duration from minutes to hours, but by grouping them under the more important headings, a useful guide is given of the proportion of time spent on the multifarious duties.

Water supplies - public	...	...	...	...	16
private	...	...	...	...	91
Swimming pools	...	...	...	...	47
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	5
Drainage and Sewerago	...	...	...	...	546
Caravans	...	...	...	...	281
Camping	...	...	...	...	116
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	245
Refuse disposal	...	...	...	...	308
Litter	...	...	...	...	45
Factories	...	...	...	...	59
Smoke...	...	...	...	...	15
Dust ...	...	...	...	...	13
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	46
Noise...	...	...	...	...	18
Housing - Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	109
- Housing Act	...	...	...	...	102
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	9
Animals	...	...	...	...	12
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	54
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	5
Meat inspection	...	...	...	...	1123
Food inspection	...	...	...	...	46
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	44
Butchers	...	...	...	...	14
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	5
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	19
Fishmongers and fish fryers	...	...	...	...	11
Grocers	...	...	...	...	46
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	3
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	33
Milk producers and retailers	...	...	...	...	155
Cafes and hotels	...	...	...	...	52
Licensed premises...	...	...	...	...	38
School kitchens	...	...	...	...	4
Mobile food vendors	...	...	...	...	17
Offices and shops...	...	...	...	...	192
Waste Food Order	...	...	...	...	38
Animal boarding establishments	...	...	...	...	5
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	195
Pleasure Boats	...	...	...	...	46
Betting Gaming and Lotteries	...	...	...	...	23
Explosives	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	187

